



On the Green—A publication for Gallaudet faculty, teachers, and staff  
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## ASDC convention 'a smashing success'

Gallaudet's first hosting of an American Society for Deaf Children convention drew a record number of attendees to Kendall Green July 12-16. More than 700 people—approximately 150 families—enrolled, making the event "a smashing success," said Krista Leitch Walker, coordinator of the College for Continuing Education's Conferences and Institutes, who co-chaired the event's planning committee with Admissions Director and ASDC board member, Deborah DeStefano.

ASDC was formed 33 years ago as a means for families with deaf children to come together to socialize and to network. ASDC is about empowering families, said Walker. "The efforts of the organization and its programs do not focus solely on the deaf child, but instead on how deafness can impact the entire family—from immediate to extended family members," she explained.

"Yours, Mine, and Ours," was an appropriate theme for ASDC's 17th Biennial Convention, said DeStefano, "because it reaffirmed the organization's philosophy that parents working with deaf adults and professionals from the fields of education and human services enrich deaf children's present and future."

The goal of the convention, said Walker, was for participants "to emerge as a stronger family unit, better educated about the social, emotional, and educational needs of deaf children and their siblings, and better advocates for their children." Another hope, she added, was that they will go back to their communities and share what they've learned from the

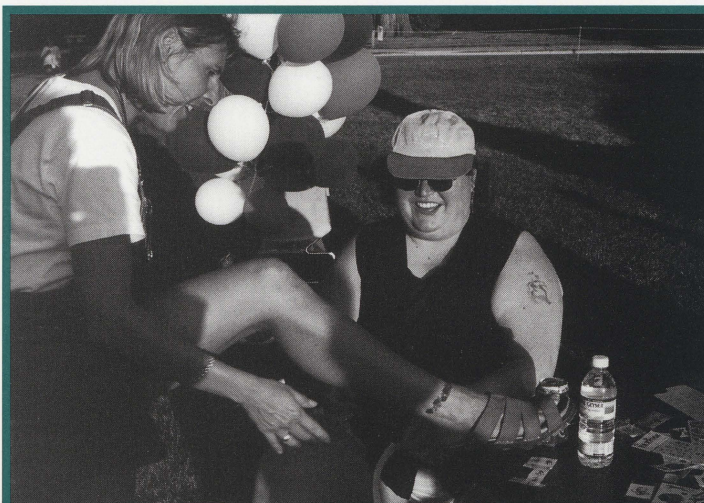
convention to educate and empower other families with deaf children.

The convention was a University-wide effort involving staff from various departments and divisions throughout the community. Programs were offered to convention-goers of all ages. The adult program was administered cooperatively by CCE, the School of Education and Human Services, and the Clerc Center; the teen program was run by the Office of Admissions and the School of Undergraduate Studies; and the children's program was hosted by the Clerc Center. (See 'Clerc Center Happenings,' page 2.) During their stay on campus, participants found accommodations at University and MSSD dorms and at the Conference Center.

The numerous activities that were held during the week offered something for all interests and were geared to an individual's degree of exposure to deafness.

There were several highlights. For the 8 to 18 set, it was a July 15 mini-camp with workshops that included basketball, football, karate, computer skills and performing arts. For adults, in addition to morning and afternoon information sessions, it was keynote presentations from Wendy Ikezawa Kohashi and Steve Walker, who gave introspective views on raising families with deaf and hearing children. Kohashi, an attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice, and her husband, Stephen, are the parents of a hearing daughter and a deaf son who graduated from MSSD this year and will attend

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Darlene Prickett, public relations assistant and tattooist-for-a-day, decorates ASDC conference participants at Wednesday night's opening Carnival on Olmstead Green.

## 'Boot Camp' reaps many personal rewards

By Beth Folsom

Imagine arriving at work by 6:55 a.m., ready and willing to lie down on the dew-drenched grass and have someone YELL IN YOUR FACE: "Drop and give me 10 push-ups!!!" Sound like fun? "YES, SIR!"

If you find that appealing, envision yourself running a mile in the early morning coolness, doing 100 crunches, 50 push-ups, 35 dips, and 10 pull-ups...sweating, listening to the cheers and jeers from your friends and colleagues as they arrive at work freshly showered and riding in their air conditioned vehicles.

Sadistic? Maybe.

Healthy? Definitely.

Fun? Absolutely!

If you arrive at work early enough, perhaps you have seen those of us in the Department of Safety and Security and other departments who arrive an hour early each morning to participate in three-week long boot camps.

Summer is the time that many people go on departmental retreats. Typically, they are weekends spent at a mountain lodge where everyone sits in a big circle and tells their innermost secrets to gain trust and become part of a team. But this "retreat" is no-frills and is physically demanding. However, it produces great results. We rally together, share our determination, encourage one

another, and cheer each other on to the finish.

The boot camp is the idea of DOSS Chief Bernard Holt. DOSS endorses the program for obvious reasons: increased ability to perform the job of a security officer, like chasing down criminal suspects. But Holt and Captain Jennifer Turner are even more enthusiastic about the program for its fringe benefits of promoting team effort which is something that is useful to all campus units. It is rewarding to witness the daily camaraderie that grows with every mile we run, each push-up, crunch, and dip we take. We celebrate as a team when one of us loses five pounds or gains muscle definition.

Once we finish boot camp, we move on to a three-month maintenance program, doing all the activities in boot camp but with the added challenge of using free weights.

A new boot camp session is forming (date TBA), and Holt is encouraging various departments on campus to join in this rigorous but rewarding activity. Former boot campers will be there to cheer on the new recruits and to show them what is possible.

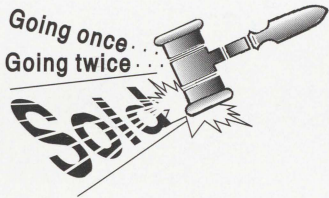
What's your excuse: Don't have the energy? Not a morning person? Haven't worked out in 10 years? That is all the better

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Steve Walker leads an ASDC session in which fathers exchanged thoughts, perspectives, and strategies for parenting children.

Going once...  
Going twice...



TeleCaption 4000 closed captioning decoder with remote control, \$100 or best offer; medical equipment: customized wheelchair, trapeze, bath chair, extra large diapers (never opened), colorful hospital gowns, hospital sheets, need to sell, excellent condition, call Edith Brown, (301) 588-0028.

The Gallaudet Theatre Arts Department announces that The National Theatre of the Deaf's First Annual Actor's Academy is being held in Elstad Auditorium. Events began July 24 and will continue through August 13. The remaining events are open to the Gallaudet Community:

**Aug. 5, 8 a.m.,** Peter Cook, "Poetry Lecture"

**Aug. 7, 8 a.m.,** NTD company teaches "Your Game" (audience participation)

**Aug. 8, 6 p.m.,** John Scheffler, designer, "Set Design" Aug. 9, 1 p.m., Willy Conley, workshop of new play, *Falling On Hearing Eyes*

**Aug. 12, 1 p.m.,** Geoffrey Holder, Broadway/film artist, "Broadway Theatre"

**Aug. 13, 1 p.m.,** Bill Repicci, Broadway producer, "Broadway Today."

Seating is first come, first served. All events are signed and/or voiced.



## Mental Health Center program helps medical students understand deaf patients' issues

In recent years, the medical profession has begun recognizing the special needs of deaf patients and is starting to move towards meeting them. One encouraging bit of evidence is a collaboration between Gallaudet's Mental Health Center and the Howard University Medical School.

For almost four years now, third-year medical students at Howard have spent one day per week for six weeks at the MHC, learning survival signs and becoming informed about deaf culture. They observe a psychiatrist conducting therapy sessions with deaf clients, and they join in on case conferences. An estimated 50 students have taken part in the program to date.

This effort in helping medical students become more informed about the deaf community is the result of a joint effort by Dr. Barbara Brauer, a psychologist and MHC executive director, and Dr. Luther Robinson, a psychiatrist, both pioneers in the field of mental health and deafness.

Robinson is credited with establishing a program for deaf patients in 1963 at St. Elizabeths Hospital, the city of Washington, D.C.'s, mental health facility. He is officially retired from Howard but continues to serve the university as associate professor emeritus.

When Robinson learned that Gallaudet was establishing its Mental Health Clinic in 1994, "I felt it would be inconceivable for the training program to be there and our medical students or residents not to have some involvement in it," he said. The following year he contacted Brauer and the idea for the collaboration was born.

When they enter the program, the medical students are tested on their knowledge of the deaf community. Then a regimen starts with an hour of basic sign language training and insights on deaf culture led by an MHC staff member or a graduate student in the program. They move on to issues that are unique to deaf patients: accessibility, use of an interpreter, the specific needs of various groups of people with hearing loss—culturally deaf, hard of hearing, or late deafened, for example.

The students also meet for several hours with Dr. Houston Macintosh, a psychiatrist with a private practice who for the past five years has worked with the MHC, diagnosing patients and prescribing medication. The students—usually only one at a time—observe, but do not interact, when Macintosh meets with patients, providing that the patients agree to be observed. They end their days at a case conference, where staff come

together to discuss the week's cases and specific clinical issues related to deaf patients.

At the end of the six-week rotation, the Howard medical students are tested again on their knowledge of deafness. "They pick up quite a bit," said Dr. Lauri Rush, director of clinical services for the MHC. "Most of them are fascinated with the issues."

According to Dr. Brauer, "Because the MHC program is often the medical students' first exposure to deafness and deaf people, the hope is that they will become better and more knowledgeable physicians for any future deaf patients they may have." She added that another goal is to initiate a similar rotation program for psychiatric residents, not only from Howard University

but also from Johns Hopkins and other local teaching hospitals. Brauer added that this fall, a psychiatric resident from the George Washington University Medical Center will join the MHC as part of her residency training.

"I feel that what we have our medical students doing with deaf patients is enhancing the students' knowledge and skill working in the psychiatric field—deaf and hearing," said Robinson. In particular, he added, "I see the experience at Gallaudet to be quite beneficial in stimulating medical students' interest in the psychiatric/mental health problems of deaf patients. Students who are assigned there express a great deal of interest in the program and indicate learning benefits." **G**



(From left): Howard University medical students Ngozi Efobi and Anthony Gikonyo are shown at Gallaudet's Mental Health Center with Houston Macintosh, M.D., MHC psychiatrist, and Mary Hufnell, Psy.D., MHC coordinator of training. For almost four years, third-year medical students at Howard have spent one day per week for six weeks at the MHC, learning survival signs and becoming informed about deaf culture.

## CLERC CENTER HAPPENINGS



Tom Quinn, guidance/transition counselor for the Clerc Center, leads a children's activity during the ASDC convention at Gallaudet.

## All hands on deck: Clerc Center entertains young visitors

By Susan M. Flanigan and Cathryn Carroll

As children bedecked in bright red T-shirts scampered about the playground, staff and teachers from the Clerc Center watched, frowned, laughed, and joined in the play themselves. Approximately 300 children took part in a wide array of activities while their parents attended workshops and meetings of the American Society for Deaf Children's 17th Biennial Convention, held on campus July 12-16.

As a co-sponsor of the convention, the Clerc Center handled the children's program and co-chaired the adult conferences. The infants and toddlers stayed at Kendall exploring the playground, trying their hands at arts and crafts, gardening, participating in outdoor games, and watching read-aloud stories and puppet shows. Older groups took field trips to the National Zoo and the

national monuments. The teenagers, under the auspices of Gallaudet, ventured off to Six Flags amusement park.

"The power of teamwork was astounding!" said Vivian Rice, coordinator for liaison services for the Clerc Center. Rice, who matched staff with the various children's groups, enthusiastically praised the staff for its participation in the children's program. "It truly sent a powerful message about the level of dedication found throughout the Clerc Center and the Gallaudet University community—and word from the parents was that the kids had a great time." **G**

## ASDC convention

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Gallaudet in the fall. Walker, a deaf/blind interpreter for Gallaudet Interpreting Services, and his wife, Krista, are the parents of a hearing son and daughter and a deaf son who will be a senior at the Maryland School for the Deaf.

In the evenings, children and their parents came together for activities such as swimming, math games, and storytelling. But probably the most popular family activity was the opening day pizza party and carnival on Olmstead Green in front of Faculty Row. **G**

## Boot camp

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reason to do it. Participants in the first boot camp were men and women who ranged in age from 23 to 50-plus, had zero to better than average stamina, and had poor to excellent levels of health and fitness prior to the program.

So, come on out—join in the fun, improve your health and sense of self. Contact Captain Turner at x5445 for more information.

(Note: Beth Folsom is a temporary employee in DOSS.) **G**

## ROVING REPORTER

*What do you like best about the boot camp? Have you seen any changes in yourself? If so, what are they?*



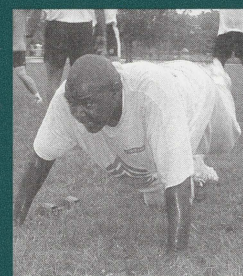
**Sue Tyler, supervisor of scheduling services, Gallaudet Interpreting Service**  
*Some mornings I hate getting up at 5:30 a.m. to be here by 6:45 a.m., but it has been worth it. I definitely notice a difference in energy and fitness. The first week we were so sore, but now we are feeling great and hopefully looking a little better, too.*



**Marlene Matthews, administrative assistant, College for Continuing Education, Dean's Office**  
*It has given me the ability to accomplish things I thought were totally impossible. I would recommend that everyone take advantage of this kind of program. I can honestly say that I truly understand the importance of exercise. It makes a difference in your total being.*



**Arthur Lee, assistant professor, Computer Information Systems**  
*The boot camp is a great workout program, especially with the support I get from my peers. Not only is the program great, I also feel so great after every workout.*



**Sgt. George Rountree, officer, DOSS**  
*It's a good camp and it's a hard camp. They have good instructors and a good regimen, I've been in six weeks now, and I've lost 18 lbs. I feel very good and I'm going to continue. I would like to invite the Gallaudet community to join us.*